

# Recycling the Right Way

## *Good Intentions Aren't Always Enough*



Even avid recyclers who truly want to waste less and be more “green” don’t always know exactly how Frederick County’s residential recycling program works. Many people don’t understand what happens to their recyclables after they are placed out for curbside collection. This often leads to making guesses—about what or how things can be recycled—and some of what gets set out for recycling collection may actually be *trash*! **This makes the recycling program more expensive and less efficient.**

We’re here to help! This flyer describes some fundamentals of recycling. If you still have questions, from what’s recyclable to how it gets recycled, call us at 301-600-2960, or send email to: [recycle@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:recycle@FrederickCountyMD.gov). We also have staff available to present programs and information on recycling to your group or for special events; help us spread the word! **The more that residents understand what and how to recycle, the more successful and sustainable Frederick County’s recycling program will be.**

### Please DO NOT:

- ✗ **Put non-recyclable materials into your collection container.** *When in doubt, throw it out!*
- ✗ **Place recyclable materials inside garbage or other bags.** *The only exceptions to this rule are shredded paper, which should be placed inside a paper bag, and plastic bags marked with a recycling symbol, which should be gathered together inside a single recyclable plastic bag.*
- ✗ **Leave styrofoam packing materials inside a cardboard box or other container.**
- ✗ **Leave foods or liquids inside of containers.** *All containers should be emptied!*
- ✗ **Recycle microwaveable plastics.** *This includes frozen dinner trays, take-out meal containers, and items marked “microwave safe”.*
- ✗ **Recycle thin, brittle plastics.** *This includes takeout, fruit, bakery and deli containers as well as soda and other disposable cups—regardless of what number or “recycling symbol” is imprinted on the bottom!*
- ✗ **Recycle tissues, napkins, paper towels or disposable wipes—even if they’re clean.**
- ✗ **Recycle used paper plates, greasy pizza boxes, waxed paper or any soiled paper products.**

### Why NOT:

- ➔ **It makes the recycling program less efficient and reduces the value of the recyclable materials.**
- ➔ **Unlike garbage, recyclable materials must be sorted.** *This means that if items were placed in a bag someone at the sorting facility would have to manually open every bag—something that simply isn’t feasible given the quantity of material collected from across the county.*
- ➔ **NO styrofoam of any kind is accepted for recycling in Frederick County.**
- ➔ **Liquids increase the program’s expense and decrease its efficiency, success and value.**
- ➔ **Microwaveable plastics are treated to be highly heat-resistant.** *This makes them difficult to recombine with other plastics.*
- ➔ **They don’t recycle well or have little market value.** *These materials are chemically and/or physically different from other similar-looking plastics, are difficult to sort and often have no reusability.*
- ➔ **These products have no recyclable value.** *The soft fibers of these products are too worn out for recycling.*
- ➔ **Unlike other materials, paper is absorbent.** *This means that once oils get on paper they bind to its fibers and cannot be separated.*

- ***The process of collecting, transporting, sorting and disposing of non-recyclable waste makes Frederick County’s recycling program less efficient and more expensive. Remember, when in doubt, throw it out!***



# How It All Works

*For Recycling to Work, Everyone Has to Do Their Part*

## It Starts With You

The first part of the recycling program relies on voluntary household participation and residents' basic understanding of how the system functions. *You* help make it all work!

There's a lot you can do to help ensure the success of Frederick County's recycling program—from collecting the proper materials, to gathering them in a suitable manner, to setting out your recyclables correctly for curbside pick-up—little details make a big difference.

Our program is *single stream*—this means no sorting of your recyclable materials needs to be done. As long as you leave trash out, taking care of what does go into your cart or bin is pretty easy. The list to the right provides some helpful hints.

- To know what is and is not recyclable, start by looking at the picture on your recycling cart's lid, visit our website for more information or call our office with any questions.
- If you use bags to collect recyclables inside your house, the materials must be dumped loose into the collection cart or bin.
- With any material, always remember: ***When in doubt, throw it out!*** Just because it's plastic or has a recycling symbol on it doesn't mean it's recyclable *here in Frederick County!* To find out more about local plastics recycling guidelines, please read our factsheet online at: [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/plastic](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/plastic)



*The curbside recycling program makes it easy to keep valuable resources from being wasted.*

## The Collection Crew

Frederick County has contracted Allied Waste Services, Inc. to provide curbside collection as well as general customer service for the residential recycling program. **The collection crews provide service to more than 75,600 households, divided into ten collection regions across the county.**

It is the goal of the Allied Waste staff to ensure that curbside recycling collection runs smoothly, safely and

**Customer Service Needs? Call Allied Waste at 301-694-6498, or send email to: [FrederickRecycles@republicservices.com](mailto:FrederickRecycles@republicservices.com)**

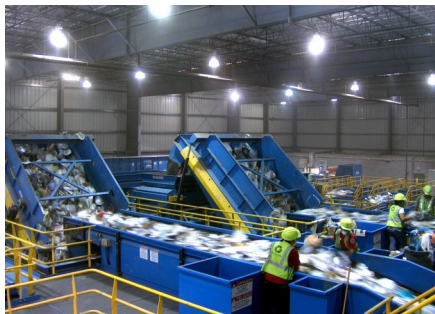


successfully. **To assist the collection crew with these goals:**

**Please have your cart curbside by 6am of the pickup day.**

**Carts should be placed within 3-6 feet of the street, facing the road, on level ground if possible, and at least 4 feet away from trash cans, mailboxes or other obstructions.**

## Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)



*Our recyclables are sent to the Recycle America MRF, located in Elkridge, MD.*

A materials recovery facility (MRF) is where your single stream recyclables get separated, sorted and sold to the markets that will ultimately reuse the materials.

The work done here combines modern technology with a dedicated staff. While machines have been designed to separate metals, paper, glass and plastics, human eyes are critical for the removal of nonrecyclable items from

the sorting line. When residents place the correct materials in their bin it makes the recycling process more efficient, as well as increases the market value of the recovered materials.

A video of Frederick County's recycling program, including scenes filmed inside the MRF, may be seen on our website, and is also available on DVD by request.

